

Press Release

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World AIDS Day 2004: Women and AIDS

Across the globe, December 1st is recognized as World AIDS Day. It is a day of hope, celebrating progress made in research and treatment, increasing awareness and promoting HIV prevention among our communities. It is also a day of remembrance, commemorating the millions affected by HIV/AIDS and understanding that we still face many challenges in the fight against this disease.

“Women and AIDS” is the theme for World AIDS Day 2004. Women are increasingly affected by HIV/AIDS. Studies suggest that worldwide, women are 2.5 times more likely to be infected with HIV as compared to men. Nationally, the proportion of AIDS cases among women has tripled from 7% in 1986 to 26% in 2001. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that 200,000 women in the United States are living with HIV. Locally, 3,178 AIDS cases (including males and females) were reported in San Bernardino County between 1983 and December 2003.

On Sunday, December 5, 2004, a World AIDS Day event will be held from 1:00 – 5:00 pm at the Central City Lutheran Mission on 1354 North “G” Street in San Bernardino. This community outreach/health fair will offer: free food, live music/entertainment, health screening and referrals, HIV antibody counseling and testing, personal stories shared by persons living with HIV, games and prizes. Sponsors include: the San Bernardino County AIDS Program, Bienestar Human Services, Central City Lutheran Mission, Foothill AIDS Project and the Inland AIDS Project.